



Tab 25

“No MO Red Tape” Initiative

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
June 7, 2018

BACKGROUND

Governor Eric Greitens signed Executive Order 17-03 on January 10, 2017, directing Missouri agencies to conduct a review of all existing and proposed regulations. The initiative, nicknamed “No MO Red Tape” was an effort by state agencies to identify regulations considered ineffective, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome on citizens and businesses. The Governor’s office partnered with George Mason University’s Mercatus Center to review the regulatory language contained in Missouri’s Code of State Regulations. Mercatus found that the Missouri CSR contained over 113,000 restrictions, as measured by words and phrases such as “shall,” “must,” “may not,” “prohibited,” and “required.” As part of this initiative, each agency was asked to collect public comments and reduce the number of restrictions found in the CSR for their respective departments.

CURRENT STATUS

The governor’s executive order provided direction to departments in collecting written and public comments, holding public hearings, summary reports, and reviewing/amending/repealing restrictive regulatory language as appropriate.

Restrictive language. The governor’s office provided data provided from the Mercatus Center indicating that MDHE had a total of 1,423 total restrictive words contained in the Code of State Regulations. MDHE identified a goal to eliminate 427 restrictive words found in the CSR, representing a 30% reduction for the department. To date, 82 restrictive words have already been eliminated, with another 511 restrictive words targeted for elimination (once official paperwork has been filed with the governor’s office), representing a total of 593 restrictive words to be eliminated by the end of this process. This represents a 41.7% reduction in the number of restrictive words, at 139% of the overall goal.

Outreach. MDHE created an administrative rule page with a form for the public to submit written comments July 1-November 30, 2017 on the MDHE website, exceeding the governor’s required timeframe by three months. MDHE held three public hearings—at the Missouri State Fair (along with ten other state agencies) on August 17, 2017, on September 13, 2017, and following the CBHE public meeting on September 14, 2017. MDHE also issued three press releases (July, August, and September 2017), posted 18 times on Facebook, and posted 59 times on Twitter. As a result of these media outreach efforts, 20 comments were received, with a Facebook reach of 2,772 and a Twitter reach of 20,855.

NEXT STEPS

The final phase of this initiative is submitting the final summary (Attachment A) to the governor’s office on May 31, 2018 and completing the process through the Secretary of State’s Office for amending and rescinding of identified rules identified by June 30, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

ATTACHMENT

- No MO Red Tape Executive Summary

Tab 25 Attachment

No MO Red Tape Executive Summary



On January 10, 2017, Governor Eric Greitens signed Executive Order 17-03, which required Missouri agencies to conduct a review of all existing and proposed regulations. The initiative, nicknamed “No MO Red Tape,” represents an effort by state agencies to identify regulations considered to be ineffective, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome on the citizens and businesses.

The governor’s office partnered with George Mason University’s Mercatus Center to review the regulatory language contained in aggregate for all of Missouri’s Code of State Regulations, as well disaggregated by state department. According to data provided by Mercatus, DHE had 1,423 total restrictive words in the CSR. As part of this initiative, each department was asked to collect public comments and reduce the number of restrictions found in the CSR. This summary represents the efforts of the Department of Higher Education to complete this initiative.

Number/Percent of Restrictions Eliminated

DHE identified a goal to eliminate 427 restrictive words found in the CSR, representing a 30% reduction for the department. To date, 82 restrictive words have already been eliminated, with another 511 restrictive words targeted for elimination, representing a total of 593 restrictive words to be eliminated by the end of this process. This represents a 41.7% reduction in the number of restrictive words, or 139% of the overall goal.

Outreach

MDHE created an administrative rule page with a form for the public to submit written comments July 1-November 30, 2017 on the MDHE website, exceeding the governor’s required timeframe by three months. During this timeframe, the webpage received 689 hits. MDHE held three public hearings—at the Missouri State Fair (along with ten other state agencies) on August 17, 2017, on September 13, 2017, and following the CBHE public meeting on September 14, 2017. MDHE also issued three press releases (July, August, and September 2017), posted 18 times on Facebook, and posted 59 times on Twitter. As a result of these media outreach efforts, 20 comments were received, with a Facebook reach of 2,772 and a Twitter reach of 20,855.

Comments

The greatest number of comments received (30%) were complimentary of the department’s efforts in providing excellent customer service to constituents. One comment regarding 6 CSR 10-5.010 Rules for Certification of Proprietary Schools supported leaving the rule intact stating, “We look upon the Coordinating Board as a partner, rather than an adversary, in providing quality career training to our students. They have always been helpful and cooperative, and quick to provide guidance and direction. We also applaud their efforts to make the rules and regulations ore collegial and less dictatorial. I am certain that these changes will result in an even greater cooperation and kinship between the staff, the schools, and the sector we serve. Their courtesy and professionalism is deeply appreciated.”

Additional comments included, “Missouri Career Schools are fortunate to have such a professional proprietary school regulatory staff. Despite its small size, the Department is committed to providing quality and timely service to the 150 members of this sector. They are very experienced, knowledgeable, and available. Moreover, they care about both the students and the schools. Their efforts are deeply appreciated.”

Twenty percent of the comments received were concerned over the recent decision to eliminate the tax off-set credit that provides tuition reductions to non-resident students who pay Missouri income tax. This program has

been a draw for students/parents who live right across state lines (especially in Kansas City and St. Louis) and work or own businesses in Missouri.

Another ten percent of the comments received were concerned about recent plans to cut higher education, with additional concerns over cuts to the Bright Flight Scholarship being of particular concern.

	Comment Summary	Number Received
A	Wants free, for-credit courses that lead to a degree for senior citizens	1
B	Concerns about reduced funding for higher education	2
C	In support of free speech and legal protest on college campuses	1
D	No automatic requirement for students to complete the FAFSA	1
E	Free college education	1
F	Concerns over cuts to Bright Flight scholarship	1
G	Concerns over the elimination of the Tax Off-Set Credit that provides dollar-for-dollar reductions to non-resident students who pay Missouri income tax	4
H	Student residency rules should be improved to include non-citizens who meet the requirements for deferred action childhood arrival for the purpose of financial aid and in-state tuition	1
I	Concerns over the statutory restrictions placed on five institutions in Missouri requiring them to purchase furniture from Missouri Vocational Enterprises, which is more expensive than other places. Also places more restrictive bidding processes on these institutions than what is required for other institutions.	1
J	In support of reducing barriers at the front-end of teacher education programs that tend to contribute to student debt, such as having students take multiple tests, at hundreds of dollars each, at the beginning of the program, before sitting for certification. Also, teacher education programs are one of the longest programs in terms of time-to-degree. Students would save money if there was a way to shorten the time it takes to get the degree.	1
K	Department commendations for professional staff interaction	6

COMMENTS

